



12 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Chase ends at Mingo

By Patty Decker

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Two people from Indiana were arrested Tuesday after allegedly committing robbery near the Gove County rest area on Interstate 70 and then trying to outrun police, said Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn.

Alan R. Bowen, Jr., 26, of Rossville, Ind. was charged with aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer, fleeing and eluding authorities, criminal damage to property and transporting an open container of alcohol. Sarah J. Brooks, 19, of Lafayette, Ind., was charged with aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer and aiding and abetting a felon.

"Other charges may be filed in Gove and Logan County (relating to the robbery)" Baughn said.

"We were advised of a vehicle pursuit in the westbound lane of I-70 at 3:50 p.m.," he said.

"Undersheriff Allen Marcum, Deputy Brent Mariman and I responded after we learned a strong-arm robbery had taken place."

Bowen and Brooks had two other passengers in the vehicle with them when Oakley Police Chief Danny Shanks and Oakley Police Officer Kelly Rummel first stopped them at the east Oakley exit.

"The vehicle pulled into Mitten's Truck Stop where Shanks made contact with the driver, who then fled the scene," Baughn said.

The two people in the car with Bowen and Brooks got out of the car before it sped off and it is unknown, at this time, whether or not charges were filed on those two individuals, he said.

"Bowen got back on I-70 westbound with Oakley police in pursuit," Baughn said.

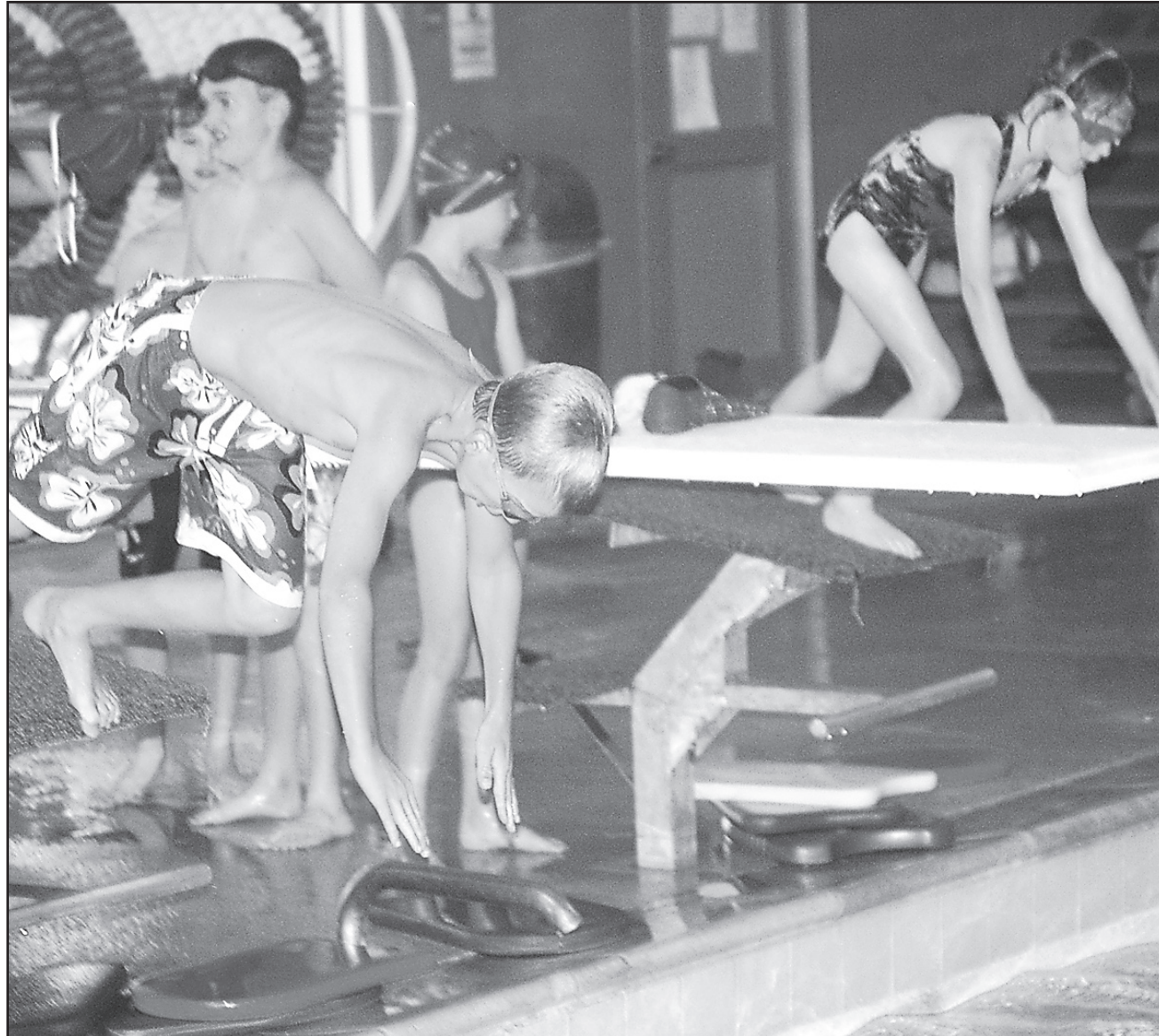
"After crossing into Thomas County, the car rammed Rummel's police car."

He said Rummel was uninjured and continued to chase the suspects.

In trying to get Bowen to stop, spike strips were placed 9 miles outside of Colby, but the vehicle avoided them.

Within minutes; however, Bowen did stop and he and Brooks were taken to the Thomas County jail. Officers from the Gove, Logan and Thomas County Sheriff's office, Quad County Task Force and Kansas Highway Patrol were involved in the chase.

## Colby swimmers prepare for home meet



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

LEFT: Aaron Faber, front, took a dive into the water during this morning's Colby Swim Club practice at the college pool. The Swim Club spent the morning preparing for their home meet, which begins 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the Colby

Municipal Pool. RIGHT: A younger Colby Swim Club member worked on her leg kicks with her practice board Friday at the Colby Community College pool in preparation for Saturday's event.

## Judicial candidates debate in Sharon Springs

By Julie Samuelson

Western Times  
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**"A judge has to be impartial."**

Andrea Wyrick,  
Thomas County Attorney and candidate

The three candidates for the district judge position left by the retirement of Jack Burr — Andrea Wyrick, Kevin Berens and Scott Showalter — were on hand for a candidate forum Tuesday at the Wallace County High School auditorium.

The event was sponsored by the Sharon Springs Rotary Club and Wallace County Bar Association. The three candidates, all Republicans, have filed for the Aug. 5 primary election, and the winner will have no opposition for the Nov. 2 general election.

Showalter, a Goodland lawyer, filed in October; Wyrick of Colby, the county attorney from Thomas and Logan counties, filed on May 22; and Berens, a St. Francis lawyer, filed on June 6, according to the secretary of state's office in Topeka.

The judge for Division 2 must live in Sherman County or move there if elected, said Sherman

County Clerk Janet Rumpel. Wyrick has not registered to vote in Sherman County, but Berens has, using an address near Edson, Rumpel said.

Each candidate was given two minutes Tuesday to introduce themselves and two minutes to answer each question. Rita Williams of Williams Consulting and Sharon Springs lawyer Allan L. Hurlburt moderated the event, attended by about 30 people.

The first question asked of the candidates was, "What do you perceive as trends for filings in this district?"

Showalter answered first, saying one of the biggest problems for the court here is the drop in the number of cases filed.

"Dockets are shrinking, and with them the type of judicial sys-

tem we have," he said. "I hope the trend changes and the number of cases increase. This is fairly prevalent throughout the district."

Berens agreed, saying he thinks the trend will continue.

He said he feels judicial offices may have to consolidate and that we may end up with district attorneys replacing county attorneys.

Wyrick agreed the "consolidation word" has been used a lot.

"People are questioning the role of the magistrate judge, who may have only 30 cases a year. Law enforcement officers worked well here filing cases. The population is declining, so the cases filed may be declining with it."

She added that agreements are often made before a case is filed.

"We don't want consolidation here," she said, "even though the

legislature likes it."

Wallace County Undersheriff Marshall Unruh asked the candidates, "As District Judge, how will you manage a magistrate? If the magistrate is appealed, what will you do?"

"If he's appealed, it's my job to handle it by reviewing it and applying the law," Behrens said. "Sometimes I'd overrule him."

Wyrick said the manager of the magistrates right now is Judge Burr. Anything that is appealed is independently reviewed.

"If they (judge) agreed with law enforcement, the magistrate's decision shouldn't be upheld," she said.

Showalter said, "We've beaten this horse to death. I'm not sure district judges can control magistrates like you'd like them to. If you don't like what they do, vote against them."

Etta Walker, a Sharon Springs lawyer, asked the candidates, "You've established relationships. I ask each of you to disclose your conflicts." Showalter said that the issue he faces would have to be

that his son is a law enforcement officer. (Jason Showalter is a sheriff's deputy in Sherman County.)

"I recall a couple of times in five years where it could have been a problem," he said. "I have no problem recusing myself. I don't look at as a problem; it's an asset."

Berens said, "There is a judicial code of conduct that applies. If there is a conflict, I would recuse myself. Any case I've litigated, I have recused myself when a conflict arose. There is a lot of discretion in the awarding of property in some cases and in child custody cases. We need to be mindful of the children. I'd also be in strict compliance with the rules of evidence."

"As a prosecutor," said Wyrick, "any case I had filed as county attorney I would have to excuse myself. A judge has to be impartial concerning everyone. Some judges and attorneys know who's who. The judge cannot pay attention to this. This would be easier for me, because I don't know who's popular and who's not."

## Free food and entertainment highlight Colby's Fourth of July

By Joey Falkoff

Free Press Reporter  
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Colby has your dinner covered this Fourth of July. Oh yea, and plenty of fireworks, too.

The Colby Lions Club will provide free hot dogs and watermelon in the 4-H building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the Fourth. The free

food is in conjunction with this year's fireworks display, which is being put on again by the Colby Kiwanis Club.

The fireworks show will begin around 10 p.m. at the fairgrounds and is expected to last around 15-20 minutes.

"We get lots of compliments every year," said Kiwanis club member Kenton Krehbiel. "People tell us it's one of the better shows in

the area."

Seating will be available inside the pit area of the fairgrounds, but the fireworks display can also be viewed from several locations around town.

"These shells do go in the air, so people have learned you don't have to be right next to them," said Kiwanis Club secretary Rick Dickman.

Dickman mentioned the bowl-

ing alley and the experiment farm as two popular viewing locations. He estimates this being the 28th year for Kiwanis to put on the event.

"It's sort of become like a tradition," he said.

Dickman is in charge of securing the fireworks from a company out of Colorado and says this year's show will be similar to those in years past.

"We're at a point with a hand-fired show that we've pretty much maxed out on what we can do without it being unsafe or a large expense," said Dickman. "If we want to increase shots, we'd have to do it electronically. Down the road, if we get a pot of gold, we can do that."

High Plains Co-Op helped Kiwanis out with the costs for this year's display by collecting free-

will donations from those who ate at Wednesday's Picnic in the Park. For Lions Club, it's their third year donating food for the event.

"We just decided we wanted to give back to the community, because they've been pretty good to us when we do our pancake feeds," said Lions Club president-elect Roger Hale. "The more people working together the better for the community."

## Briefly

### No newspaper July 4

The Colby Free Press office will be closed Friday, July 4, and no newspaper will be published that day. Deadlines for classified word and display ads for the Monday, July 7 edition of the Colby Free Press and the week of July 7 in the Country Advocate will both be noon, Thursday, July 3.

### Gaither video Sunday

The Colby Berean Church is hosting Gaither Homecoming Video Concert, "Turn Your Radio On," at 6 p.m., Sunday. Organizers encourage everyone to "come and enjoy" this old, classic concert free of charge. The event will be shown on a big screen television at the church, 1000 S. Franklin Ave. Free

refreshments will be available.

### Remote car races Sunday

The Racing for Christ Car Club, also known as the RC Club, welcomes everyone to attend its next remote control car races, from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, at the First Baptist Church, 615 Webster, Colby, said Kent Higerd, coordinator. "No experience is necessary and we have many remote control cars available for all ages (10 and up) who would like to learn," he said. There are no costs and the event is non-denominational. For questions or information, call 462-3440 or 462-2867.

### Change in location

Diplomas for the Colby High School Class of 2008

can be picked up at the district's administration office, 700 W. Third St. (This is a change from earlier information) For questions, call 460-5000.

### Bible school planned

Colby Wesleyan Church will have Vacation Bible School from 9-11:30 a.m. beginning Monday at the church, 320 W. Pine. The five-day school will continue through Friday and is open to all children ages 4 through those who have finished fifth grade. The school is about service under the theme "God's Big Backyard." Children will participate in the large-group excitement of Backyard Bash, experience God's word at Backyard Bible Club, meet real servants at community corner plus have crafts, snacks and games, organizers said.

For questions, call 462-8391.

### Church camp Tuesdays

Colby Wesleyan Church is announcing a free, summer day camp for children ages 4 to 12 called Tuesdays at 10. From 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday through July 20, children are invited to participate in fun, games, food, clowns and crafts. Children will meet at the Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine. Lunch will be served. Call, 462-8391.

### Glassware wanted

Anyone who has glassware they would like to get rid of are encouraged to contact the Thomas County Amusement Association at 462-5857 or 462-6132.